

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a recipient's email gateway connected to a network and configured to receive email messages from the network; and
a group of email-scanning servers comprising one or more email scanning servers, each of the email-scanning servers configured with anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses, the group of email scanning servers connected to the network,
wherein when the recipient's email gateway receives an email message from the network, the email message is transmitted to the group of email-scanning servers over the network to generate a clean email message using the anti-virus software, and
wherein the clean email message is transmitted by the group of email-scanning servers to the recipient's email gateway.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the email message is transmitted from the recipient's email gateway to the group of email-scanning servers after the email message is verified to determine if the email message needs to be scanned and cleaned.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the email message is verified by determining source of the email message, wherein when the source of the email message is the group of the email-scanning servers, the email message has already been scanned and cleaned.
4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the email message is verified by checking a status code in a header of the email message, wherein after the group of the email-scanning servers scan and clean the email message, the status code is updated.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the email message is transmitted from the recipient's email gateway to the group of email-scanning servers using a pre-configured IP address of the group of email-scanning servers or using a DNS server connected to the network to determine an IP address of the group of email-scanning servers.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the group of email-scanning servers includes incoming email processing logic to receive the email message to be scanned and cleaned and outgoing email processing logic to transmit the clean email message.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the group of email-scanning servers further includes subscriber verification processing logic to determine if the email message belongs to a recipient who is a subscriber

to an email scanning and cleaning service performed by the group of email-scanning servers.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each email-scanning server in the group of email-scanning servers comprises one or more anti-virus software.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the recipient's email gateway includes email server processing logic.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a recipient's email server coupled with the recipient's email gateway and connected to the network, wherein after the recipient's email gateway receives the clean email messages from the group of email-scanning servers, the recipient's email gateway transmits the clean email messages to the recipient's email server.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the recipient's email gateway is further configured to receive the email messages from a service provider's email server.
12. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving incoming email messages from a network;
transmitting the incoming email messages over the network to a group of email scanning servers comprising one or more email-scanning servers,

the group of scanning servers connected to the network, each of the email-scanning servers configured with one or more anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses, wherein the incoming email messages are scanned and cleaned by the group of email-scanning servers to generate clean email messages; and

receiving the clean email messages from the group of email scanning servers.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising verifying the incoming email messages to determine if the incoming email messages need to be scanned and cleaned.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein verifying comprises checking a source of the incoming email messages, and wherein when the source of the incoming email messages is the group of email-scanning servers, the incoming email messages are clean.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein verifying comprises checking a status code in the headers of the incoming email messages, wherein the group of email-scanning servers updates the status code of the incoming email messages after the incoming email messages have been scanned and cleaned.
16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the incoming email messages are transmitted to the group of email-scanning servers using a

pre-configured Internet protocol (IP) address of the group of email-scanning servers or by using a domain name system (DNS) to determine IP address of the group of email-scanning servers.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the group of email-scanning servers is further configured to determine if the incoming email messages belong to recipient subscribers whose email messages are to be scanned and cleaned.
18. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting the clean email messages to a recipient's email server connected to the network
19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving the incoming email message from the network comprises receiving the incoming email message from a service provider's email server connected to the network.
20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the processing system to perform the steps of a method comprising:
receiving incoming email messages from a network;
transmitting the incoming email messages over the network to a group of email scanning servers comprising one or more email-scanning servers,

the group of scanning servers connected to the network, each of the email-scanning servers configured with one or more anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses, wherein the incoming email messages are scanned and cleaned by the group of email-scanning servers to generate clean email messages; and

receiving the clean email messages from the group of email scanning servers.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, further comprising verifying the incoming email messages to determine if the incoming email messages need to be scanned and cleaned.
22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein verifying comprises checking a source of the incoming email messages, and wherein when the source of the incoming email messages is the group of email-scanning servers, the incoming email messages are clean.
23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein verifying comprises checking a status code in the headers of the incoming email messages, wherein the group of email-scanning servers updates the status code of the incoming email messages after the incoming email messages have been scanned and cleaned.
24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the incoming email messages are transmitted to the group of email-scanning

servers using a pre-configured Internet protocol (IP) address of the group of email-scanning servers or by using a domain name system (DNS) to determine IP address of the group of email-scanning servers.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the group of email-scanning servers is further configured to determine if the incoming email messages belong to recipient subscribers whose email messages are to be scanned and cleaned.
26. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, further comprising transmitting the clean email messages to a recipient's email server connected to the network.
27. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein receiving the incoming email message from the network comprises receiving the incoming email message from a service provider's email server connected to the network.

28. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
- a service provider's e mail server connected to a network and configured
 - to receive email messages from the network;
 - a recipient's email gateway coupled with the service provider's e mail server and connected to the network, the recipient's email gateway configured to retrieve the email messages from the service provider's email server at predetermined time periods; and
 - a group of email-scanning servers comprising one or more email scanning servers, each of the email-scanning servers includes anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses, the group of email-scanning servers connected to the network, wherein when the recipient's email gateway retrieves the email messages from the service provider's email server, the email messages are transmitted to the group of email-scanning servers over the network to generate clean email messages.
29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the clean email messages are transmitted by the group of email-scanning servers to the recipient's email gateway or to the service provider's e mail server.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the email message is transmitted from the recipient's email gateway to the group of email-scanning servers after the email message is verified to determine if the email message needs to be scanned and cleaned.
31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the email message is verified by checking a status code in a header of the email message, wherein after the group of the email-scanning servers scan and clean the email message, the status code is updated.
32. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the email message is transmitted from the recipient's email gateway to the group of email-scanning servers using a pre-configured IP address of the group of email-scanning servers or using a DNS server connected to the network to determine an IP address of the group of email-scanning servers.
33. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the group of email-scanning servers includes incoming email processing logic to receive the email message to be scanned and cleaned and outgoing email processing logic to transmit the clean email message.
34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the group of email-scanning servers further includes subscriber verification processing logic to determine if the email message belongs to a recipient who is a subscriber

to an email scanning and cleaning service performed by the group of email-scanning servers.

35. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein each email-scanning server in the group of email-scanning servers comprises one or more anti-virus software.
36. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the recipient's email gateway includes email server processing logic.
37. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising a recipient's email server coupled with the recipient's email gateway and connected to the network, wherein after the recipient's email gateway receives the clean email messages from the group of email-scanning servers, the recipient's email gateway transmits the clean email messages to the recipient's email server.
38. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
retrieving incoming email messages from a service provider's email server at predetermined time intervals, the service provider's email server receiving the incoming email messages from a network;
transmitting the incoming email messages to a group of email scanning servers comprising one or more email-scanning servers over the network, the group of scanning servers connected to the

network, each of the email-scanning servers includes one or more anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses, wherein the incoming email messages are scanned and cleaned by the group of emailed-scanning servers to generate clean email messages; and
receiving the clean email messages from the group of email scanning servers.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising verifying the incoming email messages to determine if the incoming email messages need to be scanned and cleaned.
40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein verifying comprises checking source of the incoming email messages, and wherein when the source of the incoming email messages is the group of email-scanning servers, the incoming email messages are clean.
41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein verifying comprises checking a status code in the headers of the incoming email messages, wherein the group of email-scanning servers updates the status code of the incoming email messages after the incoming email messages have been scanned and cleaned.
42. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the incoming email messages are transmitted to the group of email-scanning servers using

pre-configured Internet protocol (IP) address of the group of email-scanning servers or by using a domain name system (DNS) to determine IP address of the group of email-scanning servers.

43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the group of email-scanning servers is further configured to determine if the incoming email messages belong to recipient subscribers whose email messages are to be scanned and cleaned.

44. – 58. (Cancelled)